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*The Episcopal Coins of DURHAM, and the
Monastic Coins of READING, minted dur-
ing the Reigns of Edward I. II. and III.
appropriated to their respective Owners. By
Benjamin Bartlet, F. A. S. ---- 1778.*

(From the 5. Volume of ARCHÆOLOGIA. page 335. published by the Society of Antiquaries.)

WE find amongst the Coins minted at Durham, during the reigns of the three first Edwards, several Pennies bearing particular marks in some one or other part of the Coin: one has a crose moline at the beginning of the legend on each side of the Piece; a second has the same cross in the second quarter of the reverse; a third has it at the beginning of the legend on the obverse only; another has a lion rampant between two fleurs de lis in the same place. Some of these being placed where in succeeding reigns the Mintmark stood, have been taken notice of by two Writers on these subjects, but no reasons assigned for their use. There are also from the same Mint two others, which have the upright limb of the cross turned in the form of a pastoral staff, one of them to the right, the other to the left; they are said to have come from the Bishop's Mint, but the Prelates name are not mentioned.

WE are informed by the learned Mr. Pegge (a) that the Bishops of Durham coined money after the Conquest (tho' none has yet come to our knowledge); but that they, as well as the rest of the Sees, lost their Privilege at the accession of Henry II, 1154, but had it renewed to them by Richard I. "Eodem anno Ricardus Rex Angliæ dedit Philippo Dunelmensi electo, licentiam fabricandi monetam in civitate sua Dunelmensi quod predecessores suis a multo tempore retro non erat permissum (b)." However we do not find any Money minted by this Bishop or his successors, till the times of Edward I; in the eleventh year of whose reign Anthony Beck was appointed to the See of Durham. We are told that he was the most opulent Prelate that ever filled that Chair, and perhaps as ambitious; for, having obtained the Patriarchate of Jerusalem from the Pope, he procured the government of the

(a) Assemblage of Prelatical Coins, p. 84.

(b) Hoveden quoted by Mr. Pegge.



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He of Man from the King. Conscious of these honours and of his Palatinate Rights, he appears on his Episcopal Seal with a large cross moline embroidered on his upper Robe, in the style of the temporal Barons of those days (c). He also placed the same cross, his family arms, on the left side of the Chair on the same seal (d). To this Prelate I ascribe those three Pennies marked with the cross moline; one as before mentioned has the cross on both sides; another has it in the second quarter on the postic of the Coin: both these have the King's name EDW. and on the reverse CIVITAS DVRCMC; the third of these Pennies reads CDWAR. and DVRCMC, and has the cross on the obverse only; this last, I suppose, amongst the early coinages of Edward the II, in the third year of whose reign Bishop Beck died, and was succeeded in the Episcopal Chair by Richard Kellow 1310, who being promoted most probably for his merits or services, and having no pretensions to family arms, placed, by way of distinction, the head of a pastoral staff turned to the right on the upright limb of the cross. These Pennies read CDWAR. and on the reverse CIVITAS DVNCLM. He died the ninth of Edw. II, 1317, and Lodowic Beaumont, nearly allied to the Royal Family of France, was appointed his successor. It is said this Prelate was so illiterate that he could not read his Consecration Bull, his rank therefore must have been his best advocate; and on his Coins we find a lion rampant placed at the beginning of the legend on the obverse, sometimes accompanied with two, sometimes with one fleur de lis (e), and sometimes the lion alone; these coins read CDWAR. and CIVITAS DVNCLM. He died suddenly Sept. 10, 1333, 7th Edw. III; and to him succeeded Richard Bury, and in 1345, 19th Edw. III, Thomas Hatfield. He like Bishop Kellow placed the head of a pastoral staff, but turned to the right, on the cross of his Coins; these read CDWARDVS, and on the reverse CIVITAS DVRCMC; the head and weight fix them to the third Edward and to his third coinage 1353, when the weight of the penny was reduced to 18 grains.

(c) Gules a cross moline arg.

(d) The seal above mentioned was first engraved from an original by Dr. Rawlinson 1725.

(e) He bore, Azure semy of fleurs de lis, a lion rampant Or.

THE learned Dr. Sharp, Archbishop of York, in his manuscript (f) account of English Coins, proposes to distinguish the moneys of Edward the first and second by the different manner in which their names are written, and gives those Pieces inscribed *Edw.* to the father, and those with *Edwa.* *Edwar.* and *Edward* to the son. Here we find Bishop Beck, who lived at the great coinage in Edward the first's days, has two Pennies with *Edw.* and as he also lived near three years in the reign of Edward the Second, has one with *Edwar.* and his successors Kellow and Beaumont, who both lived in the same reign, have theirs with *Edwar.* may we not with some degree of certainty allow the Archbishop's suggestion to be just?

DURING this period we meet with a Penny which has been twice engraved (g), and read on the reverse HADINE, a place supposed to have been in Scotland, and that in the second quarter there was a thistle. This Penny, which reads CDW. and consequently belongs to the first Edward, was coined at Reading by the abbot (h), the legend on the reverse is VILLA RADIN- GY, and in the second quarter an escalop shell; part of the arms of the Monastery (i). In the twelfth year of Edward the Third, we find a grant to the Abbot and Monks of Reading, to coin Halfpennies and Farthings, with (as formerly) Pennies: "Dilectis "nobis in Christo Abbati et Monachis de Radyng. quod ipsi et suc- "cessores in perpetuum habeant unum monetarium et unum cune- "um tam ad Obolos et Ferlingos quam ad Sterlingos prout moris "est fabricandum;" and also the privilege of preparing the in- scription: "De Impressione et Circumscriptione quas dictus Abbas vobis declarabit sumptibus ipsius Abbatis (k)." In consequence of this Grant which Bishop Nicholson has given us at large in his chapter on English Coins, the Abbot, whose predecessor had coined Pennies, now struck Halfpennies, some few of which have come to light since the publication of the Supplement to the late learned Mr. Folkes' Tables of English Coins.

(f) Since printed.

(g) Tables of English Coins by the Society of Anti- quaries, plate III. N^o 2. Snelling's view, pl. I. N^o 7.

(h) Robert de Burghare who resigned 1287.

(i) The Arms of the Abby of Reading were Azure three Escalops Or.

(k) John Appleford 1327.

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THE Halfpenny reads CDWARDVS, and on the reverse as the Penny, VILLA RADINGY, and has the Escalop in the second quarter of the cross (1).

SOME Authors have said that the Episcopal and Monastic Mints in the time here mentioned were restrained from coining any other pieces than Pennies. It does not indeed appear that any have come to light except these Halfpennies; and if I understand the Warrant to this Monastery it certainly must have been so. The Abbot coined Pennies in the first Edward's days, and here he says, "tam Obolos et Ferlingos, quam Sterlingos prout moris est fabricandum."

(1) See Tables of English Coins by the Society of Antiquaries, Supplement part II. pl. 3.

where these Coins are engraved.



The great Seal and two pennies of bishop Beak. in y. reign of k. Ed. I.